

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting Newsletter Twelfth Month 2013

CURRENT ACTIVITIES	
<p>12/20 School Winter Concert – all are welcome to attend! School Dismissal for the Christmas Holidays until 1/6/2014</p> <p>12/24 7pm Caroling in the Meetinghouse 8 pm Open worship until midnight</p>	<p>1/14 JCOC serving the shelter meal. Contact Tracy Paladini tpaladini@yahoo.com</p> <p>1/21 Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy – trip to Richmond. Sign up to attend this legislative day event!</p> <p>1/20 Martin Luther King Day – School is closed 1/21 No school classes, Faculty Workday</p>
WEEKLY	MONTHLY
<p><u>EACH 1st DAY</u> (Sunday)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <u>10:30 – 11:30 am Meeting for Worship with First Day School- younger children join Meeting during or after Worship</u> * <u>12:00-12:30 pm Silent Peace Vigil - in front of the Meetinghouse</u> <p><u>EACH 4th DAY</u> (Wednesday)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <u>7 pm - Mid-Week Prayer</u> <p><u>EACH 6th DAY</u> (Friday)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <u>9 – 9:30 am Meeting for Worship All are welcome, with special invitation to School & Meeting Community (except when school is not in session)</u> 	<p><u>1st First Days</u> –</p> <p>9 am – Buildings & Grounds Meeting 12:15 pm - Peace & Social Justice Meeting</p> <p><u>2nd First Days</u> –</p> <p>8:30 am - Meeting for Worship with attention to Business (except Seventh Month)</p> <p><u>3rd First Days</u></p> <p>9 am - First Day School Discussion <u>The NCYM-C Book of Discipline</u></p> <p><u>4th First Days</u></p> <p>9 am Meeting of Ministry & Oversight</p>
SAVE THE DATES 2014	
<p>To Be Determined</p>	<p>The River Cleanup Days. Contact Whit Peace, 613-2828 whitpeace.river@gmail.com For more information or to register, call our office at 757-962-5398, Trista@LRNow.org</p>
<p>1/14, 2/6, 3/11, 4/10, 10/7, 11/6</p>	<p>JCOC dates for 2014 – Contact Tracey Paladini to assist and for details tpaladini@yahoo.com</p>
<p>4/13-16/2014</p>	<p>FWCC Regional Consultation, High Point NC</p>
<p>4/26/2014</p>	<p>Representative Body meeting, Durham Meeting, Durham NC</p>
<p>7/9-13/2014</p>	<p>Yearly Meeting, Guilford College, Greensboro NC</p>

Query #6 to ponder for next month - Growth of Our Children: *Do we endeavor by example and precept to cultivate in our children a sense of openness and expectancy about life, and to aid them in their growth in spiritual understanding and moral discernment? Do we share with them the faith that guides the practice of Friends, while encouraging them to develop their religious insights as the Spirit of God may lead them?*

Query #5: Work of the Meeting: *Do we regularly attend our meetings for business, and are they held in a spirit of love, understanding, and forbearance? Do we seek the right course of action in humble submission to the Authority of Truth and in the patient search for a sense of unity under Divine guidance?*

Response: We feel we have made progress towards greater faithfulness, humility, and patience. We are thankful for benefits that this resilience has contributed to the survival of our faith community. A spirit-given vision for our future will help us to discern when to be patient, and when to seek change. We can find Spirit by living in the now, and accepting the uncertainty and the mystery of faith. We are challenged to listen to the voice of Spirit in others, in order to seek a unity of that vision in our business together.

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Twelfth Month 10, 2013

Opening: Virginia Beach Friends met for worship with attention to business on 12th month, seven in the Meetinghouse. The meeting began at 8:37 AM with silent worship. There were some 11 Friends and attenders present.

Head of School: There is an increased focus of enrollment on the webpage. Candid photos that demonstrate students living out our testimonies will be posted. Teacher Eileen Vernon is this year's Founders' Day honoree. We have invited students from all past years' to a combined homecoming event and alumni reunion on the 19th of 12th month. The annual Christmas program is 12/20. This year's Thanksgiving event featured simpler fare. The upper schoolers who are mentoring lower grades have encouraged the spiritual life of the school.

School Committee: The Committee is pleased with the current state of the curriculum in all divisions. The spirit of the school is high. Teachers care about their students and vice-versa. Enrollment is at 151 and we are making strides toward balancing the operating budget, but there is still very little room for enhancements." Clearly more financial play is needed. The Committee would like to see half of the \$100,000 Annual Fund goal in hand by the end of the year. Building and property issues will continue to financially challenge our School.

Treasurer's Report: Expenses exceeded income by more than \$1000. Most of our income was from rent collection. Only \$700 came from member donations. We are still some \$4000 short of projected annual spending. Requests from a number of committees for next year's budget still remain unfilled, hindering the approval process. Meeting approved the budget in its current form with authority for the treasurer to pay bills for one month. The treasurer agreed to contact Committee conveners that have not replied one more time. We also approved an unanticipated increased additional expense of nearly \$400 for property insurance.

Buildings & Grounds: We have someone to paint the outdoor trim. Installment of the fireplace logs is in process now. The next workday has been postponed until next month. The Committee will meet next month at 9:00 AM on the 5th. The convener is putting together a list of surplus or unneeded property to share with the membership before disposal. If the items have not been claimed within a month, approval was given for her to decide what to do.

Ministers, Elders, and Overseers: The Committee discussed our Query #3. Dave French presented our proposed revision process of the Discipline. Details for the FWCC committee meeting to be hosted by the Meeting were finalized. Meeting heartily approved Rose Kennedy as a new overseer.

Memorial for Eileen Ghittino: A number of Friends attended. We learned much about her in what her many other friends shared during the hour together. Many of them expressed they were intrigued by our style of worship, and we encouraged them to return. Hank was very pleased with how everything went. We expressed gratitude to Rose Kennedy and Paula Justice for acting on the Meeting's behalf.

Peace & Social Justice: Bob Young cited Friends Committee on National legislation as an inspiration for members of the Committee. He has sent for 25 copies of their most recent newsletter to share with the Meeting. Nominating Committee will seek a new convener for this Committee. Bob read his annually revised holiday poem "A Time of Thanksgiving."

Closing: No further business appearing, meeting closed with a few minutes of silence, to meet again in 1st month, 2014 if consistent with Divine will.

Patricia Phelan Young, Clerk and Andrew M. Young, Recording Clerk

CHRISTMAS PLANS

The Meetinghouse is scheduled to be open for Christmas caroling at 7pm on Christmas Eve. At 8 pm we will begin the open waiting worship which will last until Midnight. Everyone is invited to come and participate as much and as long as you would like.

News from the School

For anyone who wants a bit of Christmas spirit, attend the School's "Winter Concert." It is a great opportunity to see our school in action. This year they are presenting the play, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus"!!

The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy is an interfaith organization our Meeting joined last year. Each year during the prior General Assembly (the session this year is 60 working days from January through March) they have hired a bus to give us a pleasant ride to the General Assembly to meet with our state Delegates and Senators. We gather for an introduction to the day. If this type of civic engagement is new to you, there are sessions for the novice and for the more experienced and sometimes for special interests. After the introduction some of the "pros" usually choose to proceed to the General Assembly to meet with their representatives. Appointments in advance are strongly encouraged, but not required. Many folks choose to work together in small groups. In the past several years when I attended, I met up with the Quakers from around the state and we visited our senators and delegates and theirs too! There is a registration fee and in the past this has included a box lunch. Please consider participating in this opportunity!!
Nancy Craft

The purpose of this newsletter is to share the Monthly Meeting minutes with members, attenders and others interested in the Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting. The minutes represent the official view of the Meeting. Other articles relating to the Meeting are included on a space available basis and reflect the views of the person submitting the information. The name of the person writing or submitting each article is included to avoid the impression the information represents the opinion of the Meeting.

Newsletter Notes: The Deadline for the newsletter is the day of our monthly Business session.

We are encouraging folks to receive the newsletter electronically to help save our funds. Please consider receiving this newsletter via only electronic emails. **To receive the newsletter and/or other Meeting news electronically via email only, send a request to vbfm.emailer@gmail.com.** Please include your name, address, phone number and email when making requests. Please indicate if you no longer want to receive the hard copy newsletter. You may also communicate via the Meeting's mailing address, Virginia Beach Friends Meeting, PO Box 4371, Virginia Beach, VA 23454.

Please remember it costs the Meeting 55 cents for every returned newsletter. Please forward address changes to avoid returned newsletters.